

Nzema language

Nzema, also known as **Nzima** or **Appolo**, is a Central Tano language spoken by the Nzema people of southwestern Ghana and southeastern Ivory Coast.^[3] It is partially intelligible with Jwira-Pepesa and is closely related to Baoulé.^[4]

Although it is a Bia language, Nzema has had considerable influence from Akan languages, especially Twi and Fante.^[5]

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Phonology

Consonants

Nzema	
Region	Ghana, Ivory Coast
Ethnicity	Nzema
Native speakers	412,000 (2013) ^[1]
Language family	<div>Niger–Congo <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Atlantic–Congo<ul style="list-style-type: none">Kwa<ul style="list-style-type: none">Potou–Tano<ul style="list-style-type: none">Tano<ul style="list-style-type: none">Central Tano<ul style="list-style-type: none">Bia<ul style="list-style-type: none">South Bia<ul style="list-style-type: none">Nzema</div>
Language codes	
ISO 639-2	nzi (https://www.loc.gov/standards/iso639-2/php/langcodes_name.php?code_ID=339)
ISO 639-3	nzi
Glottolog	nzim1238 (http://glottolog.org/resource/language/id/nzim1238) ^[2]

		Labial	Labiodental		Dental	Alveolar				Alveolo-palatal		Palatal		Velar	
			plain	labialized		plain	labialized	palatalized	nasalized	plain	labialized	plain	labialized	plain	labialize
Nasal	plain	m			ɱ	n̪						ɲ	ɲ̥	ŋ	ŋ̥
Plosive/affricate	voiceless	p	tp		t̪					d͡z	d͡z̥			k	k̥
	voiced	b	db		ɖ	d				t͡ɕ	t͡ɕ̥			ɡ	ɡ̥
Fricative	voiceless		f	f̥		s	s̥	ɕ		ɕ̥	ɕ̥̥			x	
	voiced		v	v̥		z	z̥	ʑ						ɣ	
Trill						r									
Lateral						l			ɭ						
Approximant												j			ɰ

Vowels

	Front	Central	Back
Close	i		u
Near-close	ɪ		ʊ
Close-mid	e		o
Open-mid	ɛ		ɔ
Near-open		ɐ	
Open		a	

Of Nzema's ten vowels, eight may be nasalized: /ĩ/, /ĩ̃/, /ẽ/, /ẽ̃/, /ã/, /ũ/, /ũ̃/, and /ɔ̃/.^[5]

References

- Nzema (https://www.ethnologue.com/language/nzi) at *Ethnologue* (22nd ed., 2019)

2. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Nzima" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/nzim1238>). *Glottolog* **3.0**. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
3. "Nzema" (<https://www.ethnologue.com/language/nzi>). *Ethnologue*. Retrieved 2020-01-03.
4. Burmeister, Jonathan L. (1976). "A comparison of variable nouns in Anyi-Sanvi and Nzema" (<https://www.sil.org/resources/archives/2509>). *Annales de l'Université d'Abidjan. H* (Linguistique 9): 7–19.
5. Berry, J. (1955). "Some Notes on the Phonology of the Nzema and Ahanta Dialects". *Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies*. **17** (1): 160–165. doi:[10.1017/S0041977X00106421](https://doi.org/10.1017/S0041977X00106421) (<https://doi.org/10.1017%2FS0041977X00106421>). ISSN 1474-0699 (<https://www.worldcat.org/issn/1474-0699>).

External links

- [Nzema language dictionaries \(http://nzi.kasahorow.org/app/d\)](http://nzi.kasahorow.org/app/d)

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